

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Amended) A mutant  $\alpha$ -amylase derived from an  $\alpha$ -amylase having an amino acid sequence represented by ~~SEQ ID No. 2~~ SEQ ID No. 4 or showing at least 60% homology thereto by substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue corresponding to any one of Asp<sub>128</sub>, Gly<sub>140</sub>, Ser<sub>144</sub>, Arg<sub>168</sub>, Asn<sub>181</sub>, Glu<sub>207</sub>, Phe<sub>272</sub>, Ser<sub>375</sub>, Trp<sub>434</sub> and Glu<sub>466</sub> of the amino acid sequence.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) A mutant  $\alpha$ -amylase according to claim 2, wherein the substitution or deletion of at least one amino acid residue is substitution of the amino acid residue corresponding to Asp<sub>128</sub> with Val or Gln, the amino acid residue corresponding to Gly<sub>140</sub> with Ser, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser<sub>144</sub> with Pro, the amino acid residue corresponding to Arg<sub>168</sub> with Gln, the amino acid residue corresponding to Gln<sub>181</sub> with Val, the amino acid residue corresponding to ~~Glu<sub>270</sub>~~ Glu<sub>207</sub> with Asp, the amino acid residue corresponding to Phe<sub>272</sub> with Ser, the amino acid residue corresponding to Ser<sub>375</sub> with Pro, the amino acid residue corresponding to Trp<sub>434</sub> with Arg or the amino acid residue corresponding to Glu<sub>466</sub> with Asp.
5. (Currently Amended) A gene encoding a mutant  $\alpha$ -amylase as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 4, or a vector containing said gene.
6. (Original) A cell transformed by a vector as claimed in claim 5.
7. (Original) A method for producing a mutant  $\alpha$ -amylase, which comprises cultivating a transformant cell as claimed in claim 6.
8. (Currently Amended) A detergent composition comprising a mutant  $\alpha$ -amylase as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 4.